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# The Strategic Chain: China, India, Pakistan, and the United States

Einhorn, Robert

Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School

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The Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering WMD (PASCC) is run at the Center on Contemporary Studies (CCC) and sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). PASCC awards and supports strategic studies and dialogues that anticipate and try to reduce the threat of WMD capabilities.



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*Research in Progress* describes ongoing PASCC research. For more information, please contact [pascc@nps.edu](mailto:pascc@nps.edu).

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## The Strategic Chain: China, India, Pakistan, and the United States

Performer: The Brookings Institution

Project Lead: Robert Einhorn

Project Cost: \$200,000

FY15-16

### Objective:

This project will examine the strategic linkages among Pakistan, India, China, and the United States. This chain represents a series of relationships that possess the most active nuclear weapon, missile, and missile defense programs in the world. Pakistan looks to India as its principal threat, and India bases its threat perceptions off both Pakistan and China. China, meanwhile, looks to the United States and India. Foremost, the project seeks to identify policies and measures that could promote strategic stability and reduce incentives for arms buildups within the wider strategic chain. The research will also seek to promote a better understanding of the diverse strategic interconnections among these four nuclear powers and examine to what extent this chain represents an obstacle to strategic restraint.

### Approach:

This study will span 15 months and be based on research conducted by the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., New Delhi, and Beijing, as well as with other foreign experts. It will involve two to three former senior officials and scholars from each of the chain's four countries. The study will consider whether useful steps toward moderation and reduction of strategic competition are possible. In addition, it will consider what steps third countries could take to be supportive of bilateral arrangements that might not otherwise be pursued by those within the strategic chain. The key deliverable will be a report and related briefings that provide analysis and recommendations to promote stability and moderate competition.

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